

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUCAR 04895 121447Z
ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /033 W
-----107555 130849Z /20

R 121348Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO USLO PEKING
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0559
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4895

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, RO, CH

SUBJECT: NEW ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR TO PRC: FLOREA DUMITRESCU

1. RCP DAILY SCINTEIA ANNOUNCED JULY 9 APPOINTMENT OF FORMER MINISTER OF FINANCE FLOREA DUMITRESCU AS ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR TO PRC AND JULY 13 HIS INITIAL CALL ON FONMIN HUANG HUA. NEW AMBASSADOR IS A CAPABLE TECHNICIAN OF 51 WHO WAS A PLEASANT AND ABLE MINISTER FOR ALMOST TEN YEARS, DURING WHICH HE PRESIDED OVER ROMANIA'S ENTRY INTO WORLD OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCE. ALTHOUGH A FULL MEMBER OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE (AS IS AMBASSADOR NICOLAE IN WASHINGTON BUT NOT AMBASSADOR BADRUS IN MOSCOW), DUMITRESCU REPORTEDLY HAS LITTLE INTEREST IN POLITICS OR IDEOLOGY.

2. DUMITRESCU WAS BORN APRIL 4, 1927 INTO A PEASANT FAMILY (ACCORDING TO HIS WIFE) IN RURAL TELEORMAN JUDET, NOT FAR FROM BUCHAREST. HIS CAREER BEGAN IN 1949 AT THE NATIONAL BANK UPON GRADUATION FROM THE SCHOOL OF FINANCE AND CREDIT OF BUCHAREST INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC SCIENCES, AND HE REMAINED WITH BANK--EXCEPT FOR MILITARY SERVICE FROM 1951 TO 1953--UNTIL 1965, CONCENTRATING IN PROBLEMS OF FINANCE AND CREDIT IN THE ECONOMY. FROM 1965-1968, HE WAS WITH CENTRAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUCAR 04895 121447Z

COMMITTEE AS AN ECONOMIC SPECIALIST WITH FINANCE DIVISION OF STATE PLANNING COMMITTEE, AND IN 1968 BECAME MEMBER AND THEN VICE-CHAIRMAN OF ECONOMIC COUNCIL, A CC BODY. IN AUGUST, 1969, HE WAS ELECTED A CANDIDATE MEMBER OF CC AND APPOINTED MINISTER OF FINANCE. HE WAS ELECTED A FULL MEMBER OF CC IN JULY 1972 AND RE-ELECTED AT THE XI PARTY CONGRESS IN 1974.

3. DUMITRESCU'S APPOINTMENT AS MINISTER FOLLOWED EXTENSIVE CRITICISM OF UNSATISFACTORY PERFORMANCE OF FINANCIAL SECTOR AT THE X PARTY CONGRESS IN 1969. HE PLAYED AN INCREASINGLY ACTIVE ROLE IN THE ECONOMY--ESPECIALLY IN AREAS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FOREIGN TRADE. HIS EFFORTS TO REDUCE ROMANIA'S FOREIGN TRADE DEFICIT WERE MODERATELY SUCCESSFUL, AND IT IS BELIEVED THAT HIS DEPARTURE FROM MINISTRY IN MARCH THIS YEAR WAS PROMPTED PRIMARILY BY HEALTH PROBLEMS. AS MINISTER OF FINANCE, DUMITRESCU NEGOTIATED ROMANIA'S MEMBERSHIP IN IMF AND IBRD AND REPRESENTED GOR AT MEETINGS OF THOSE ORGANIZATIONS.

4. DUMITRESCU IS FAIRLY WIDELY TRAVELLED IN THE WEST. IN 1965 HE VISITED ITALY AND FRANCE TO STUDY AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATIVES, AND HE VISITED FRANCE AGAIN IN CONNECTION WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FRANCO-ROMANIAN JOINT COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. IN 1967 HE SPENT THREE WEEKS IN US WITH A GROUP OF ROMANIAN ECONOMISTS AND LABOR EXPERTS WHOSE PROGRAM INCLUDED DISCUSSIONS AT HARVARD AND MIT AND VISITS TO WALL STREET AND FORD MOTOR COMPANY. IN 1972 HE WAS AGAIN IN US FOR ROMANIA'S ADMISSION TO IMF/IBRD AND RETURNED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS FOR MEETINGS. IN 1976 HE WAS IN UK FOR SIGNING OF ANGLO-ROMANIAN CLAIMS AGREEMENT AND HE WAS HAROLD WILSON'S ESCORT DURING A PORTION OF HIS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BUCAR 04895 121447Z

1976 VISIT TO ROMANIA. DUMITRESCU SPEAKS RUSSIAN AND EVIDENTLY SOME FRENCH, BUT NO ENGLISH.

5. DUMITRESCU HAS BEEN CHARACTERIZED AS SERIOUS, RESERVED AND PRAGMATIC, BUT NEVERTHELESS FRIENDLY AND WILLING TO SHARE INFORMATION. HE IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE A QUICK AND RETENTIVE MIND. HE HOLDS A DOCTORATE, HAS TAUGHT IN HIS FIELD AND HAS WRITTEN NUMEROUS ARTICLES FOR TECHNICAL JOURNALS. ALTHOUGH ROBUST TO OUTWARD APPEARANCES, HE IS VARIOUSLY REPORTED TO SUFFER FROM HYPERTENSION AND A WEAK HEART, AS WELL AS FROM A SERIOUS KIDNEY PROBLEM, FOR TREATMENT OF WHICH IN EARLY 1977 HE DID NOT RESPOND TOO WELL. HIS WIFE, NINA VALENTINA, WHO IS ALSO AN ECONOMIST, ACCOMPANIED HIM TO US IN 1972. SHE IS REPORTEDLY A PLEASANT AND ATTRACTIVE WOMAN, WHO MAY ALSO SPEAK SOME FRENCH. THE DUMITRESCUS HAVE A SON, BELIEVED TO BE IN HIS EARLY TWENTIES.

6. COMMENT: APPOINTMENT OF A PROFESSIONAL OF DUMITRESCU'S STATURE AND EXPERIENCE, DESPITE HIS APPARENT IDEOLOGICAL INDIFFERENCE AND PROBLEMATIC HEALTH, IS CLEARLY AN INDICATION OF IMPORTANCE PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU ATTACHES

TO PEKING-BUCHAREST TIES AND OF SERIOUS INTENT TO EXPAND
THAT RELATIONSHIP IN ECONOMIC-TECHNICAL SPHERE SUBSEQUENT
TO HIS RECENT VISIT.
AGGREY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BUCHAR04895
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780286-1117
Format: TEL
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780771/aaaachnz.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1c734977-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION INR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2043076
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR TO PRC: FLOREA DUMITRESCU
TAGS: PINR, RO, CH
To: PEKING
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1c734977-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014